

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Regulations for the Diphtheria Immunization Program

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A translation of the regulation of 1 April 1952, covering the program of diphtheria immunization throughout East Germany, is as follows:

REGULATION OF 1 APRIL 1952 FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATIONS

Pursuant to paragraph 1, section 1, of the Regulation of 1 June 1949 on Immunization Procedures (ZVOB1 I, page 446), the following regulations pertaining to diphtheria inoculations are announced:

Paragraph One

Required immunizations against diphtheria will be carried out from 1 April to 31 October 1952, throughout the German Democratic Republic.

Paragraph Two

- (1) All children and young people born in 1937-38, 1945-46, and 1950-51 are obliged to receive the immunization if they were not immunized against diphtheria during the years 1950 to 1952.
- (2) Children and young people, who cannot be immunized without danger to their life and health, are not obliged to receive the immunization while their particular condition lasts.
- (3) The following are exempt from the immunization:
 - a. Children and young people who have evidence that they have suffered from diphtheria in the years 1950 to 1952.
 - b. Children and young people who are afflicted with an acute infectious disease, or are in the stage of convalescence.
 - c. Children and young people suffering from a visible cold (severe cough and catarrh) on the day of the immunization.
 - d. Those with active tuberculosis.
 - e. Those suffering with kidney diseases who exhibit objective symptoms.

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- f. Those with heart and circulatory defects who exhibit objective symptoms.
- g. Children and young people who are afflicted with furunculosis or other severe skin diseases (other than scabies).
- h. Those with disease conditions caused by allergy.

(4) The physician performing the immunizations is the one who decides cases of exemption from the immunization, and who issues a medical certificate for the exemption.

Paragraph Three

(1) The diphtheria immunization is carried out with DIPHThERIA-TOXOID-ASID of the SERUMWERK VEB Dessau or with DIPThERIE-SCHUTZIMPSTOFF Dresden of the SAECHSISCHE SERUMWERK in Dresden.

(2) The immunization will be carried out in the following doses and time intervals:

- a. Little children (at their first immunization) receive two subcutaneous injections of 0.5 cc each at an interval of four weeks.
- b. Children beginning school and those leaving school (who are being reimmunized) receive a single subcutaneous injection of 0.3 cc and 0.2 cc respectively.
- c. If the children beginning school and those leaving school have not yet undergone a diphtheria immunization, they receive two subcutaneous injections of 0.3 cc and 0.2 cc respectively, at an interval of four weeks.

(3) If, in an exceptional case, a severe reaction occurs after the first injection, the immunization is not to be repeated.

Paragraph Four

(1) The immunization will be carried out observing all precautionary measures.

(2) Syringes and syringe-needles must be sterilized by boiling for one-half hour in water to which 1 % soda and 0.35 % formalin have been added. The air will be removed from the syringe-needle before injection (pressed out by operating the syringe plunger). A freshly sterilized syringe-needle must be used for each child; it can be attached to the syringe with a tweezers only (not with the hand).

(3) The physicians who are performing the immunizations, and the assistant personnel, will, before starting the injections, clean their hands for five minutes in warm water with soap and brush, and after this will wash them for five minutes in a suitable disinfectant solution.

(4) The injection spot will be cleansed with cotton or artificial cotton and a skin disinfectant (alcohol or denatured alcohol). Fresh cotton will be used for each individual immunized.

(5) The vaccine will be kept in a cool place (if possible, at plus 4° Centigrade). The vaccine, before use, will be vigorously shaken and then taken out immediately. The content of opened bottles must be used up immediately.

Paragraph Five

The Stadt and Land-Kreise^{2/} will have ready the required budget funds for the execution of the immunization program.

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Paragraph Six

Attention is directed to the observation of the directions specified in the Regulation of 1 June 1949 for Immunization Procedures (ZVOB1 I, page 446) and the First Method of Procedure of 4 July 1949 in the Regulation on Immunization Procedures (ZVOB1 I, page 539).

Paragraph Seven

This regulation will become effective on 1 April 1952.

Berlin, 1 April 1952
Ministry of Public Health
Deputy: J. Matern
State Secretary

Comments: 1. Zentralverordnungsblatt (Central Ordinance Bulletin)
2. Governmental divisions roughly equivalent to counties.

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